

AN ACT

relating to the investigation of fraud, waste, and abuse in certain public benefits programs by the office of inspector general for the Health and Human Services Commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 531.102(t), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(t) At each quarterly meeting of any advisory council responsible for advising the executive commissioner on the operation of the commission, the inspector general shall submit a report to the executive commissioner, the governor, and the legislature on:

(1) the office's activities;

(2) the office's performance with respect to performance measures established by the executive commissioner for the office;

(3) fraud trends identified by the office; ~~and~~

(4) any recommendations for changes in policy to prevent or address fraud, waste, and abuse in the delivery of health and human services in this state; and

(5) the amount of money recovered during the preceding quarter as a result of investigations involving peace officers employed and commissioned by the office for each program for which the office has investigative authority.

1 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 31, Human Resources Code,
2 is amended by adding Section 31.045 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 31.045. PEACE OFFICERS. The commission's office of
4 inspector general may employ and commission peace officers for the
5 purpose of assisting the office in the investigation of fraud,
6 waste, or abuse in the financial assistance program. A peace
7 officer employed and commissioned by the office is a peace officer
8 for purposes of Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure.

9 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 33, Human Resources Code,
10 is amended by adding Section 33.032 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 33.032. PEACE OFFICERS. The commission's office of
12 inspector general may employ and commission peace officers for the
13 purpose of assisting the office in the investigation of fraud,
14 waste, or abuse in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.
15 A peace officer employed and commissioned by the office is a peace
16 officer for purposes of Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure.

17 SECTION 4. This Act does not authorize the Health and Human
18 Services Commission's office of inspector general to commission
19 additional peace officers.

20 SECTION 5. If before implementing any provision of this Act
21 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
22 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
23 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
24 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
25 waiver or authorization is granted.

26 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2523 was passed by the House on May 9, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2523 on May 25, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2523 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 24, Nays 7.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor